



ROY THOMAS, TODD McFARLANE & VINCE COLLETTA

47
75¢
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JULY 85
APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

SPECIAL ISSUE!
The
**SECRET
ORIGIN**
of
Dr. Fate

ALL-STAR SQUADRON



1 9 3 5
50 DC
1 9 8 5

ADEZ

McFARLANE

A MOMENTARY LULL IN THE STORM CALLED WORLD WAR TWO, 1942:

I JUST HOPE SHE'S ALL RIGHT...

IT'S NOT LIKE LIBERTY BELLE TO JUST DROP OUT OF SIGHT THIS WAY--IN SPITE OF HER FRIEND TOM REVERE'S DEATH IN PHILADELPHIA.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, FIREBRAND. AFTER ALL, SHE'S GOT JOHNNY QUICK WITH HER, RIGHT?

MMMM... NOW THAT I PUT IT THAT WAY...

DANETTE'S ALL KEED UP... AND NO WONDER HER OWN FATHER'S FUNERAL WAS JUST A FEW DAYS AGO.

UP!... DON'T LOOK NOW, FELLAS, BUT WE'VE GOT VISITORS...!



STARMAN-- AND DR. FATE, WHAT BRINGS A COUPLE OF JUSTICE SOCIETY REGULARS TO THIS NECK OF THE WOODS?

ACTUALLY, TARANTULA-- WE HAD A LITTLE TIME TO SPARE, SO I CONVINCED FATE HE SHOULD GIVE YOU HIS LIFE'S STORY FOR THAT BOOK YOU'RE ALWAYS MOONLIGHTING ON.

MATTER OF FACT, WE'RE ON OUR WAY TO OUR MONTHLY JSA MEETING.

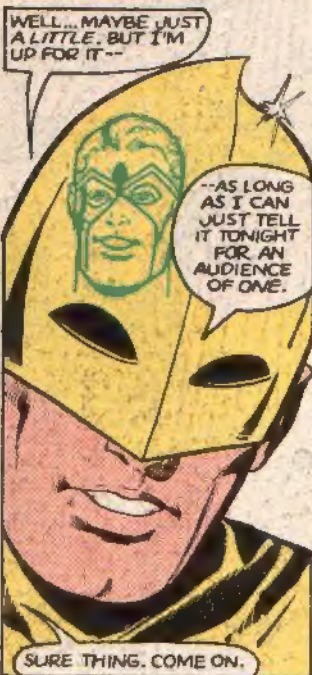
YOU KNOW-- THE ONE THAT'S GONNA MAKE ALL US MYSTERY-MEN TYPES FAMOUS SOMEDAY?



IF YOU MEAN THE ONE ABOUT OUR SECRET ORIGINS-- OUR PART IN THE WAR-- GREAT! I HOPE STARMAN DIDN'T RAILROAD YOU INTO IT, DR. FATE.

WELL... MAYBE JUST A LITTLE. BUT I'M UP FOR IT--

--AS LONG AS I CAN JUST TELL IT TONIGHT FOR AN AUDIENCE OF ONE.

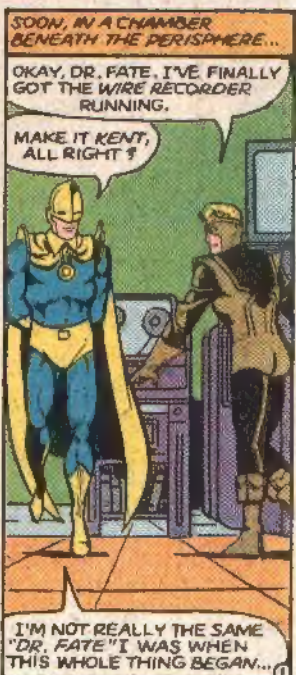


SURE THING. COME ON.

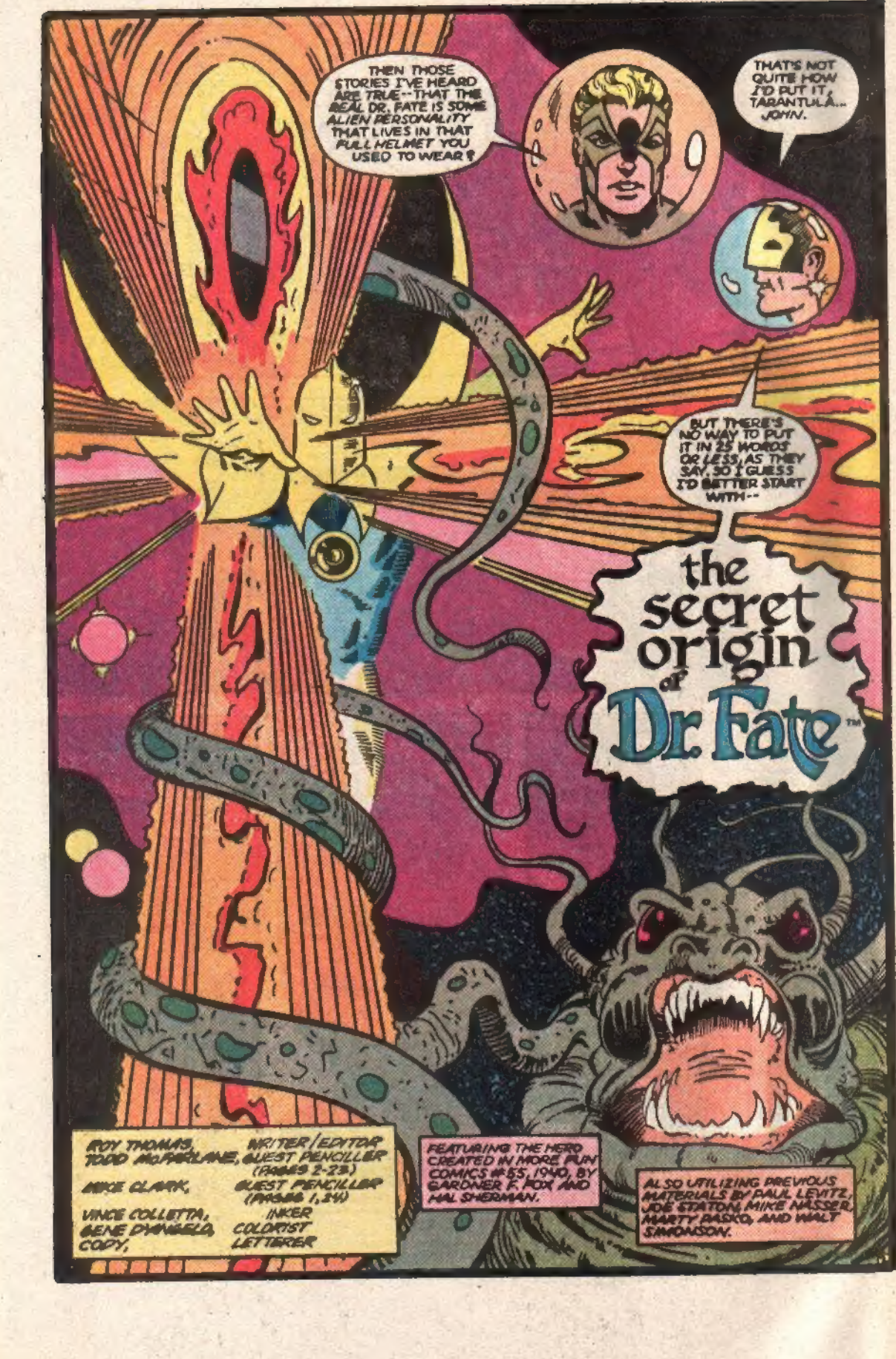
SOON, IN A CHAMBER BENEATH THE PERISCOPE...

OKAY, DR. FATE, I'VE FINALLY GOT THE WIRE RECORDER RUNNING.

MAKE IT KENT, ALL RIGHT?



I'M NOT REALLY THE SAME "DR. FATE" I WAS WHEN THIS WHOLE THING BEGAN...



THEN THOSE
STORIES I'VE HEARD
ARE TRUE--THAT THE
REAL DR. FATE IS SOME
ALIEN PERSONALITY
THAT LIVES IN THAT
FULL HELMET YOU
USED TO WEAR?

THAT'S NOT
QUITE HOW
I'D PUT IT,
TARANTULA...
JOHN.

BUT THERE'S
NO WAY TO PUT
IT IN 25 WORDS
OR LESS, AS THEY
SAY, SO I GUESS
I'D BETTER START
WITH--

the secret origin of Dr. Fate™

ROY THOMAS,
TODD McFARLANE, GUEST PENCILLER
(PAGES 2-23)

MIKE CLARK,
GUEST PENCILLER
(PAGES 1, 24)

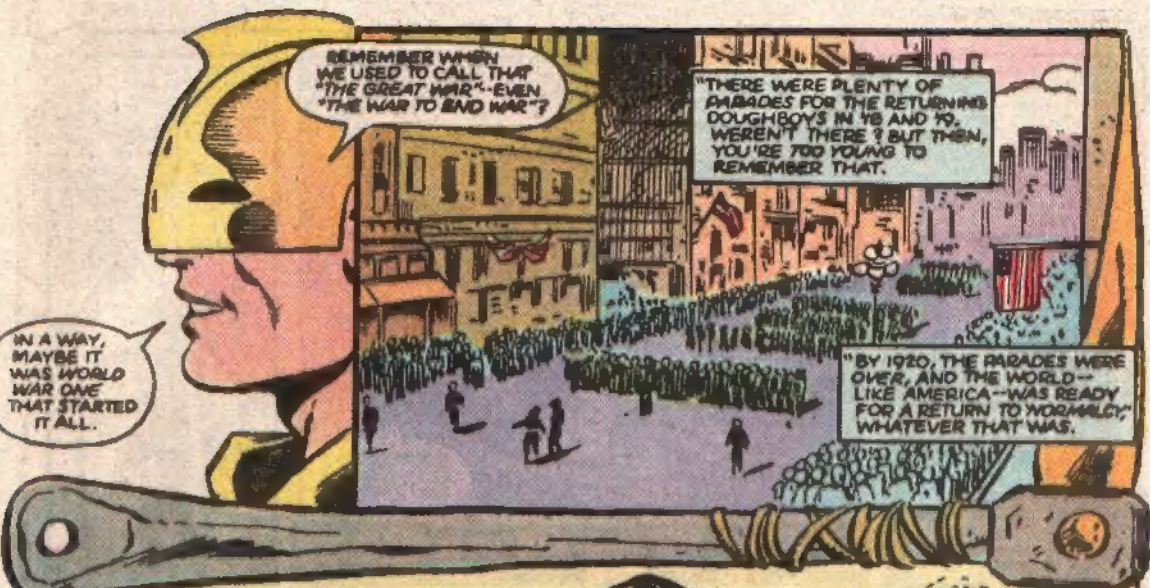
VINCE COLLETTA,
GENE DYNGELA,
CODY,

WRITER/EDITOR
GUEST PENCILLER
(PAGES 2-23)

INKER
COLDRIST
LETTERER

FEATURING THE HERO
CREATED IN MORE FUN
COMICS #65, 1940, BY
GARDNER F. FOX AND
HAL SHERMAN.

ALSO UTILIZING PREVIOUS
MATERIALS BY PAUL LEVITZ,
JOE STATON, MIKE NASSER,
MARTY BASKO, AND WALT
SAMONSON.



REMEMBER WHEN WE USED TO CALL THAT "THE GREAT WAR" - EVEN "THE WAR TO END WAR"?

"THERE WERE PLENTY OF PARADES FOR THE RETURNING DOUGHBOYS IN '18 AND '19. WEREN'T THERE? BUT THEN, YOU'RE TOO YOUNG TO REMEMBER THAT."

IN A WAY, MAYBE IT WAS WORLD WAR ONE THAT STARTED IT ALL.

"BY 1920, THE PARADES WERE OVER, AND THE WORLD-- LIKE AMERICA-- WAS READY FOR A RETURN TO NORMALCY, WHATEVER THAT WAS."

"PART OF THE ENGLISH VERSION WAS THE BRITISH MUSEUM'S FIRST SERIOUS ATTEMPT TO EXCAVATE THE ANCIENT MESOPOTAMIAN CITY OF U.R."

"AFTER THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF H.R. HALL, WHO WAS TO HAVE HEADED THE EXPEDITION, THEY TURNED TO MY FATHER, EVEN THOUGH HE WAS SWEDISH BY BIRTH."

"AND SO, IT WAS DR. SVEN NELSON WHO GOT THE DUBIOUS HONOR OF FIRST EXCAVATING--NOT THE ZIGGURATS FOR WHICH THAT AREA IS JUSTLY FAMED--"

"--BUT A HUGE, EGYPTIAN-STYLE PYRAMID."

"WISH YOU COULD UNDERSTAND HOW ASTONISHING THIS ALL IS, KENT."

A PYRAMID--HERE IN THE TIGRIS-EUPHRATES VALLEY, HUNDREDS OF MILES FROM WHERE ANY PYRAMID SHOULD BE!

I UNDERSTAND, FATHER.

"AND MAYBE, BEING TWELVE YEARS OLD, I DID."

..AND IN A WAY, MAYBE THAT MAKES THEM A WHOLE LOT SMARTER THAN MY FATHER AND ME!

"ONE THING'S FOR SURE, THOUGH: THE LOCALS KNEW SOMETHING WAS WRONG."

"WHEN AN ENTRANCE TO THE THING WAS FINALLY FOUND, NOT ONE OF THEM COULD BE BRIBED, CAJOLED OR THREATENED INTO ACCOMPANYING HIM INSIDE..."



"I DON'T THINK HE WOULD HAVE TAKEN ME WITH HIM INTO THAT VAST DARKNESS, EXCEPT THAT HE WAS AFRAID THE NATIVES MIGHT RUN OFF WHILE HE WAS INSIDE, LEAVING ME ALL ALONE."

"HE WORRIED A LOT ABOUT MY BEING ALONE, EVER SINCE MY MOTHER'D DIED."

LOOK, FATHER! OLD VASES-- ORNAMENTS--!

GOOD LORD! YOU'VE GOT A SHARP EYE!

MAYBE THIS ALL FITS WITH MY THEORY THAT MEN FROM ANOTHER PLANET BUILT BOTH THE ZIGURATS AND THE PYRAMIDS.

WAIT UNTIL THE BRITISH MUSEUM LEARNS ABOUT MY DISCOVERY--!

AND--THIS WRITING ON THE WALL--IT'S NEITHER MESOPOTAMIAN NOR EGYPTIAN!

I'D SEEN MY FATHER LOST IN THOUGHT THAT WAY BEFORE.

THE BIBLE CALLS THIS OLD CITY "UR OF THE CHALDEES," SON.

BUT IT DOESN'T MENTION ANY PYRAMIDS BEING HERE BETWEEN 4000 B.C. AND NOW.

IT SEEMS SOMEONE'S BEEN HERE BEFORE US--

--BUT HE DIDN'T GET BACK OUT TO TELL ANYBODY WHAT HE'D FOUND!

HE'D SPEND HOURS EXAMINING THAT ANCIENT WRITING, SO I FIGURED I'D BETTER SCOUT AROUND FOR A WAY TO AMUSE MYSELF.

"AND, GOD KNOWS -- NOT FAR AWAY, DOWN A CORRIDOR THICK WITH THE DUST OF CENTURIES--"

"U.P.!"

"--I GOT MORE THAN I'D BARGAINED FOR!"

"BUT, BEFORE I COULD MOVE!"

"THE STRANGE WHITE GAS WHICH SPEWED FORTH CAUSED MY EYES TO TEAR--AND WHEN I BLINKED THEM OPEN AGAIN--"

"--I THOUGHT I WAS ONE DEAD KID!"

"A MAN-- A GIANT! BUT HE LOOKS-- LIKE HE'S JUST STOOD HERE SINCE YESTERDAY!"

"GOT TO TELL FATHER--!"

"DON'T KNOW HOW I KNOW IT--BUT HE WANTS ME TO SWING THIS BIG LEVER. I WONDER WHAT--"

"OAH--!"

Soooooooooooo

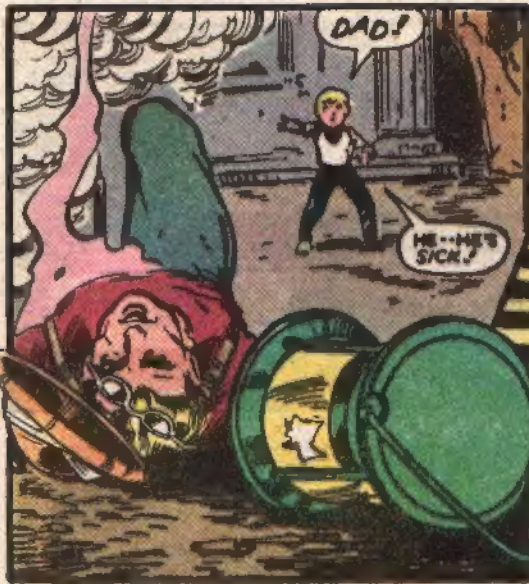
"THE GIANT WAS ALIVE -- AWAKE--AND REACHING OUT FOR ME WITH A GARGANTUAN, POWERFUL HAND!"

"I DID WHAT ANY OTHER RED-BLOODED HALF-SWEDISH, HALF-AMERICAN BOY WOULD DO!"

"I RAN LIKE HELL, SCREAMING FOR MY FATHER."

"BUT WHEN I FOUND HIM, ONLY A FEW SECONDS LATER--"

NNNNNNNN!



DAD!

HE--HE'S SICK!



NO, BOY. HE IS DEAD.



WHEN THESE CHAMBERS WERE BUILT, A POISON GAS WAS PREPARED-- SO THAT ANY WHO KNEW NOT THE SECRET OF THE CHAMBER WAS SURE TO DIE.

YOU KILLED HIM! YOU KILLED MY FATHER!



YOUR FATHER'S LIFE, AND HIS DEATH, WERE BEYOND EVEN THE PROVINCE OF NABU THE WISE, BOY.

NOR CAN I RESTORE HIM TO LIFE, MUCH AS I SHOULD WISH TO DO SO.

BUT I SHALL STRIVE TO REPAY YOU FOR YOUR LOSS--BY TEACHING YOU THE SECRETS OF THE INDIAN UNIVERSE.

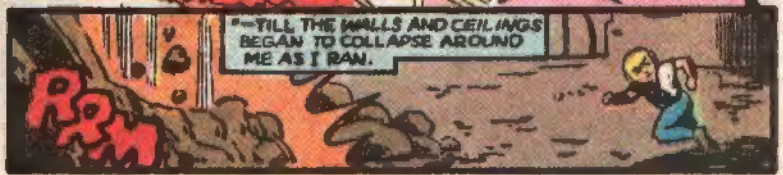


I--I DON'T CARE ABOUT THAT! ALL I WANT IS MY FATHER!

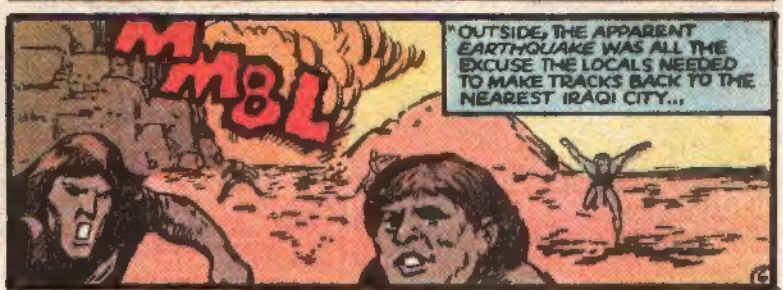
ONCE AGAIN I STARTED TO RUN-- SOMEWHERE, ANYWHERE--



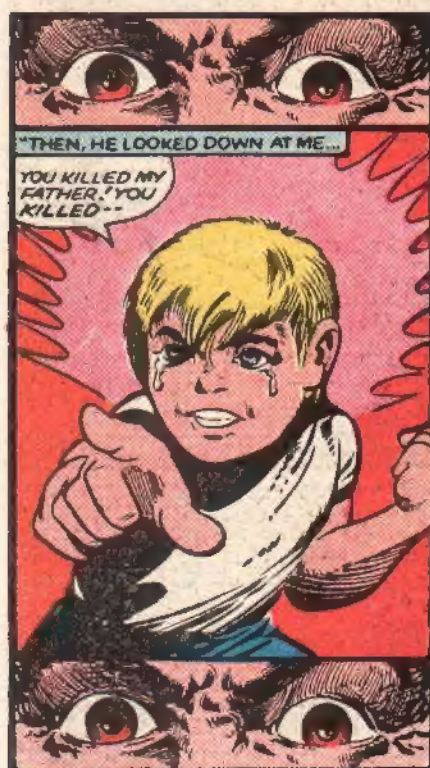
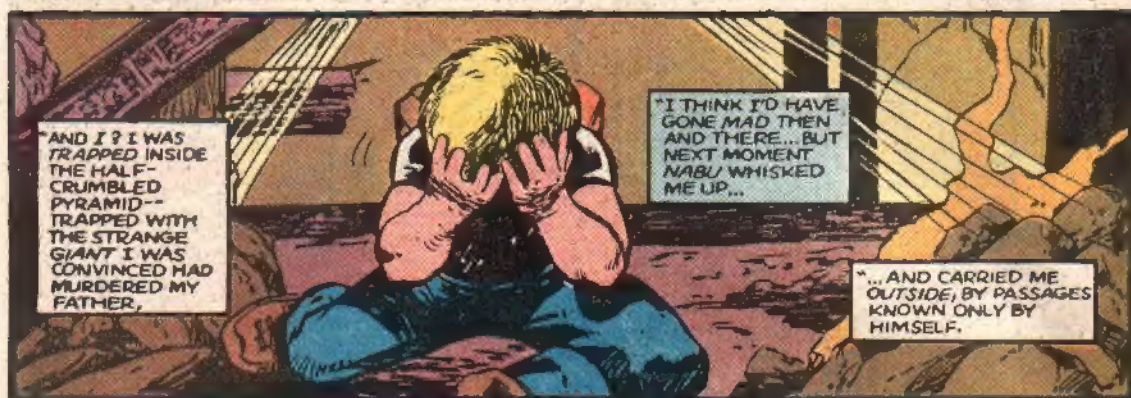
"I WAS BARELY AWARE THAT THE GIANT--NABU--HAD MADE A STRANGE, STIFF GESTURE BEHIND ME--

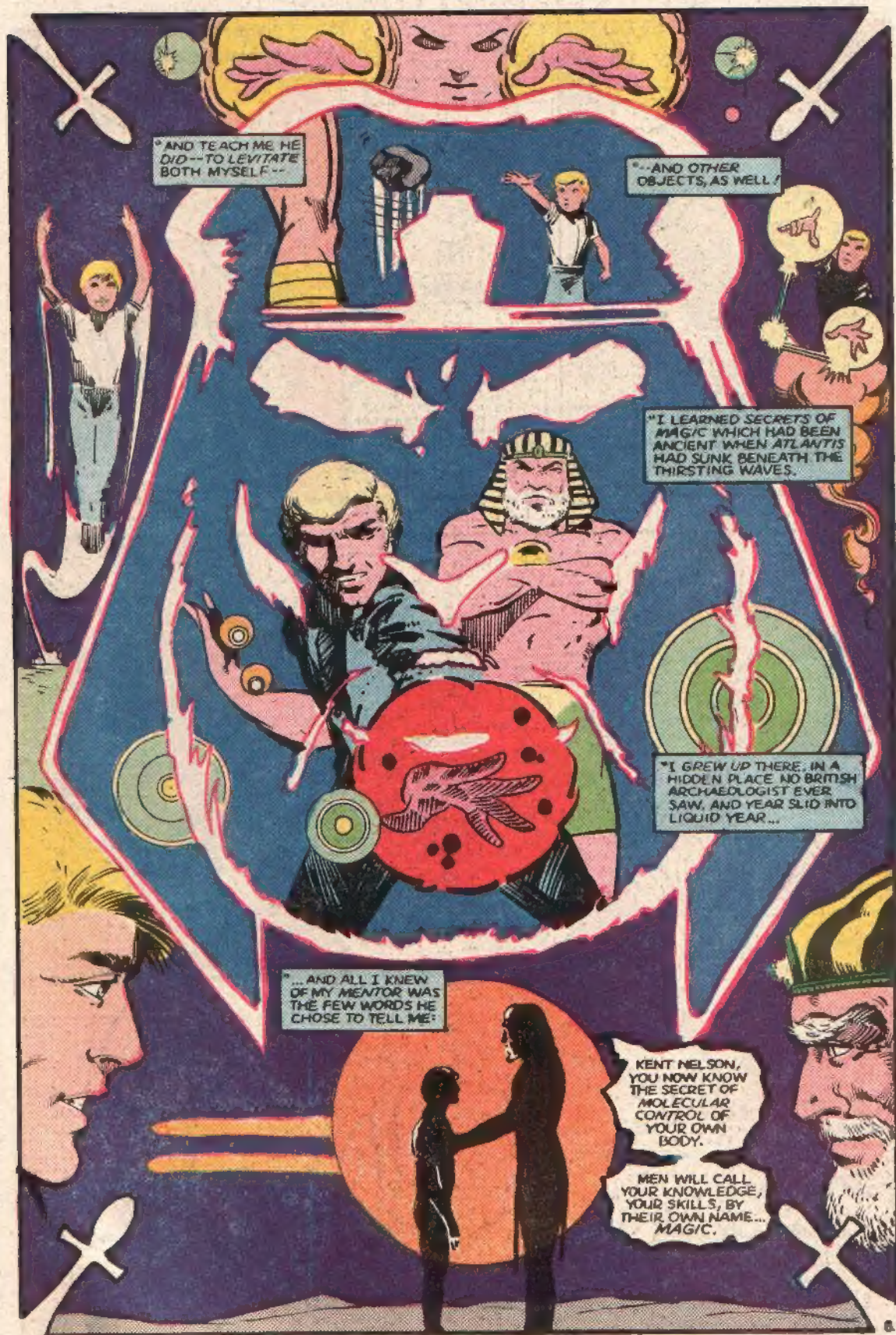


"--TILL THE WALLS AND CEILINGS BEGAN TO COLLAPSE AROUND ME AS I RAN.



"OUTSIDE, THE APPARENT EARTHQUAKE WAS ALL THE EXCUSE THE LOCALS NEEDED TO MAKE TRACKS BACK TO THE NEAREST IRAQI CITY...





"AND TEACH ME HE
DID--TO LEVITATE
BOTH MYSELF--

"--AND OTHER
OBJECTS, AS WELL!

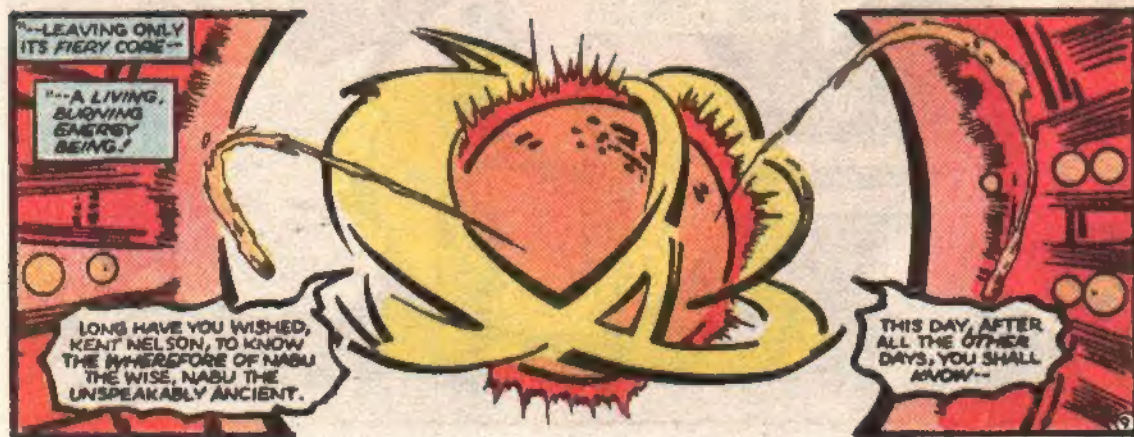
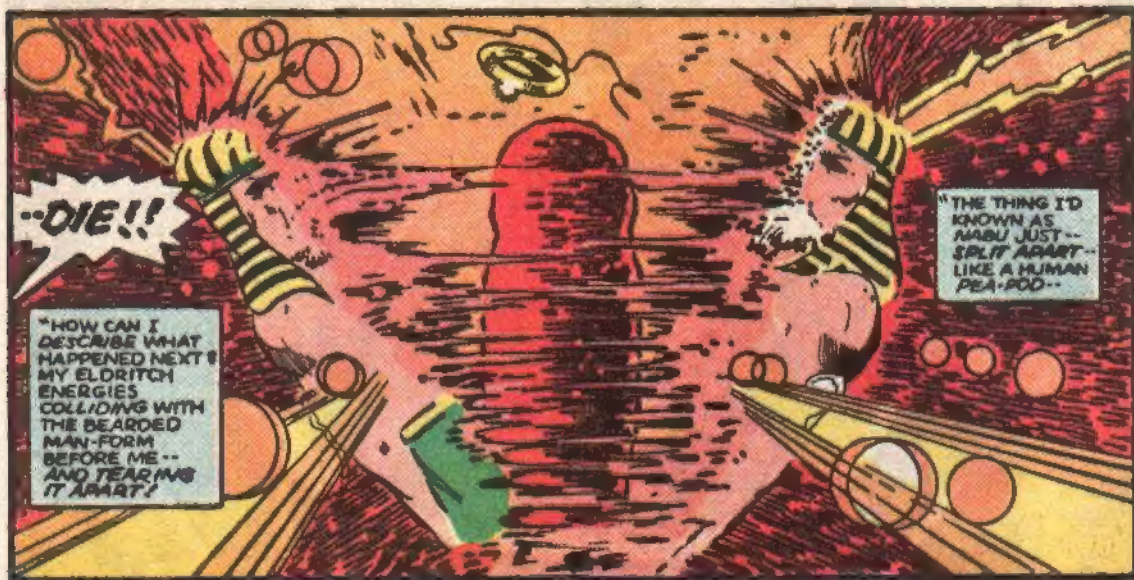
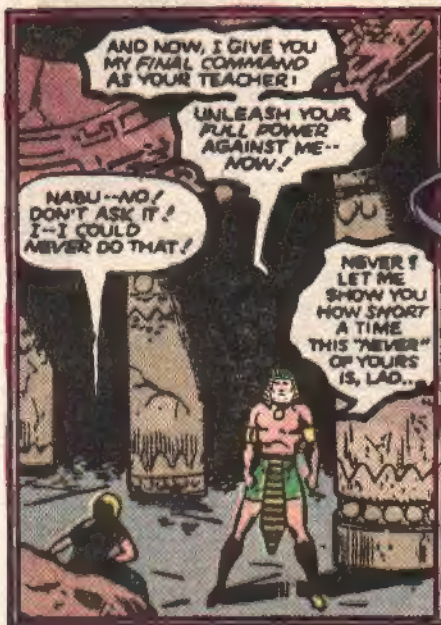
"I LEARNED SECRETS OF
MAGIC WHICH HAD BEEN
ANCIENT WHEN ATLANTIS
HAD SUNK BENEATH THE
THRISTING WAVES.

"I GREW UP THERE, IN A
HIDDEN PLACE NO BRITISH
ARCHAEOLOGIST EVER
SAW, AND YEAR SLID INTO
LIQUID YEAR...

"...AND ALL I KNEW
OF MY MENTOR WAS
THE FEW WORDS HE
CHOSE TO TELL ME:

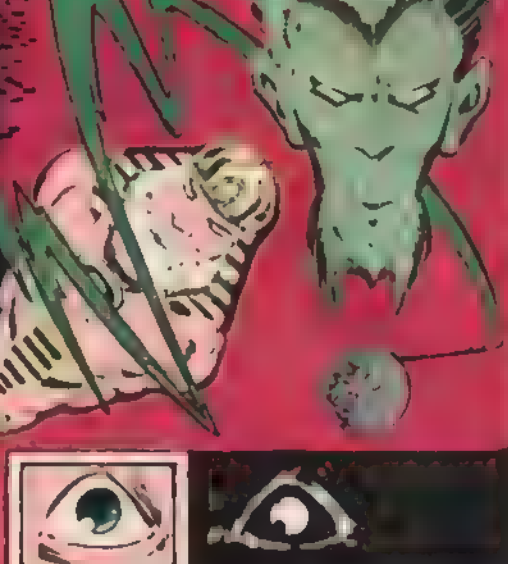
KENT NELSON,
YOU NOW KNOW
THE SECRET OF
MOLECULAR
CONTROL OF
YOUR OWN
BODY.

MEN WILL CALL
YOUR KNOWLEDGE,
YOUR SKILLS, BY
THEIR OWN NAME...
MAGIC.



"AND THE TRUTH
SHALL MAKE YOU
LIKE UNTO A GOD"

"THAT'S WHEN I SAW
THE IMAGES IN MY HEAD
AND MORE UNDERSTOOD
THEM WITHOUT A WORD
BEING SPOKEN"



"I SAW THE
SMILELESS PLANET
CYCLO SWIRLING
IN HER ORBIT
FAST THE EARTH—
A HALF A
MILLION YEARS
IN A FLEET"

"I KNEW SOMEBODY THAT
NABU WAS SENT TO EARTH
AT THAT TIME 'BORN' IN
A SENSE, AN EXILED LORD
OF ORDER, CONDEMNED
TO EARTH FOR ALL TIME..."

"AND THAT THE MAN SHAPE IN
WHICH I OKNOUW HIM WAS BUT
A GUESS HE WERE SO THAT HE
WOULD BE A GUARDIAN OF
MANKIND, YET STILL WALK
AMONG MEN"



"I CAN'T
UNDERSTAND
ALL OF WHAT
FILLED MY HEAD
PERHAPS I STILL
DON'T"



"THEN I SAW NABU MANY MILLIONNA
LATER IN EGYPT, IN SUMER AND
ELSE WHERE"



"HE HAD
POWERED
PEOPLE HIM"



"AND HE WAS
WINDING UP
LIKE A TOY"

"AND WHY ACT WHEN HE
WAS STOPPED BEYOND
WINDING AND WILD
LET TATE GREAT BLOCKS
OF STONE?"



"THEN, IN A TWINKLING, HE REGAINED HIS HUMAN FORM..."

THERE IS A WAR BEYOND THE KEN OF MAN, KENT NELSON... AN ETERNAL STRUGGLE BETWEEN THE FORCES OF ORDER AND THE FORCES OF CHAOS, THROUGHOUT THE VERY MULTIVERSE.

BUT MY HUMAN SHELL WAS EVENTUALLY WORN OUT BY COUNTLESS MILLENNIA OF BATTLE, AND EVEN LONG CENTURIES SPENT IN SUSPENDED ANIMATION HAS FAILED FULLY TO HEAL MY PSYCHIC WOUNDS.

THE ENTITY WHICH IS NABU NEEDS A NEW HOST...

...AND THAT HOST IS YOU!

BEFORE THE ECHOES OF NABU'S WORDS HAD DIED AWAY, AN ENTIRE COSTUME OF GOLD AND BLUE REPLACED MY OWN CLOTHES...

"A GOLDEN 'CLOAK' SEEMED TO LEVITATE DOWN FROM NOWHERE, TO SETTLE ON MY SHOULDERS."

"A BRIGHT AMULET FLUTTERED AROUND MY NECK..."

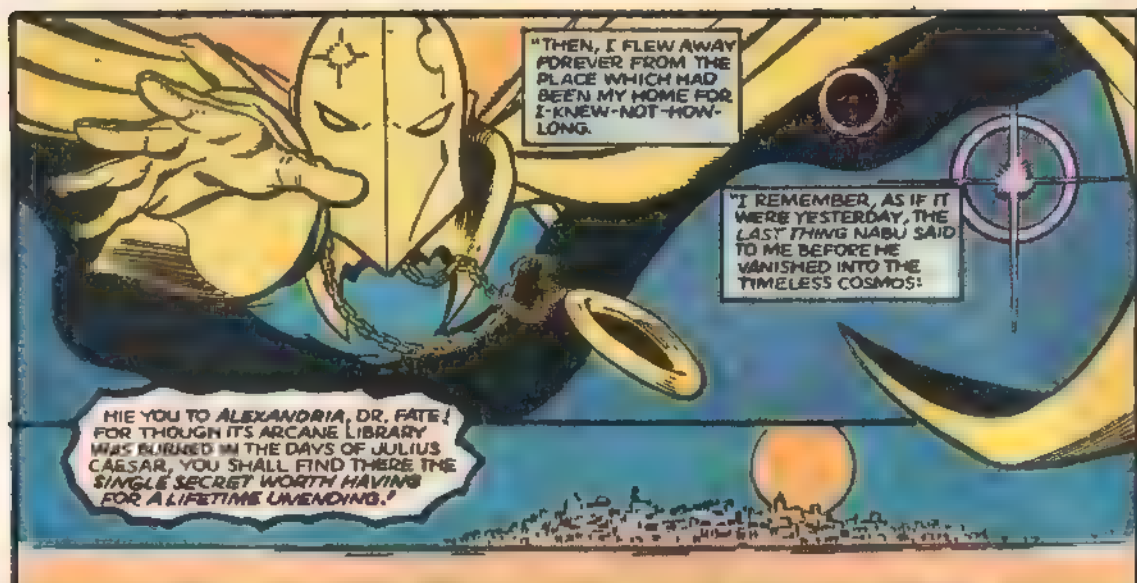
"A GLEAMING HELMET APPEARED IN MY HANDS."

"AND WHEN I HAD DONNED THEM ALL..."

"...I WAS Dr. Fate!"

"HE TOLD ME A FEW THINGS..."

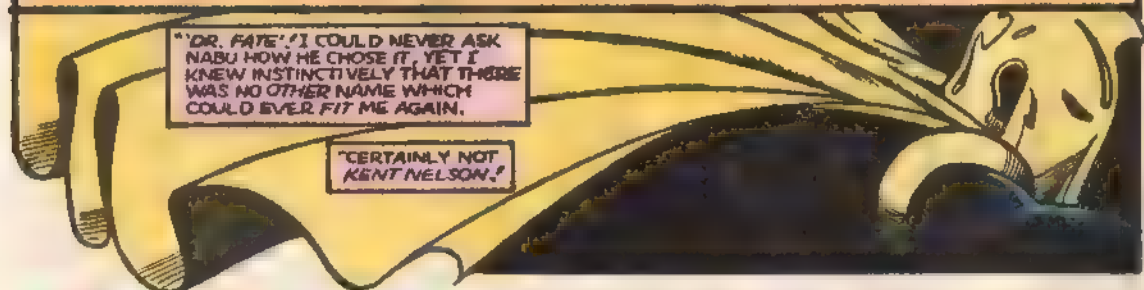
"...AND THEN WAS GONE."



"THEN, I FLEW AWAY FOREVER FROM THE PLACE WHICH HAD BEEN MY HOME FOR I-KNEW-NOT-HOW-LONG.

"I REMEMBER, AS IF IT WERE YESTERDAY, THE LAST THING NABU SAID TO ME BEFORE HE VANISHED INTO THE TIMELESS COSMOS:

"HIE YOU TO ALEXANDRIA, DR. FATE! FOR THOUGH ITS ARCADE LIBRARY WAS BURNED IN THE DAYS OF JULIUS CAESAR, YOU SHALL FIND THERE THE SINGLE SECRET WORTH HAVING FOR A LIFETIME UNENDING."



"DR. FATE" I COULD NEVER ASK NABU HOW HE CHOSE IT, YET I KNEW INSTINCTIVELY THAT THERE WAS NO OTHER NAME WHICH COULD EVER FIT ME AGAIN.

"CERTAINLY NOT KENT NELSON."



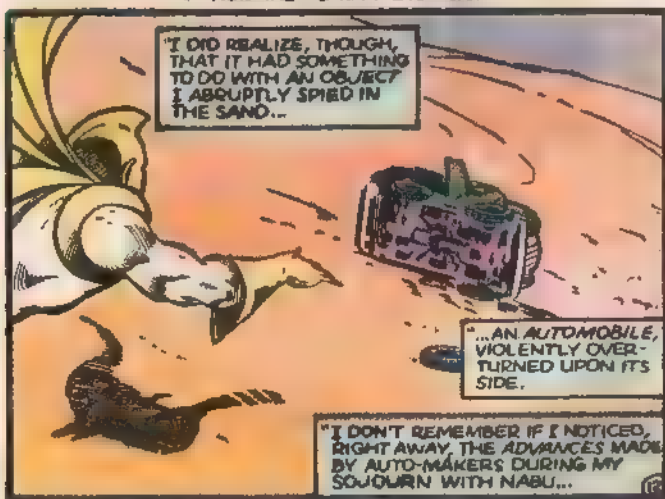
"I KNEW, OR FELT, SOMETHING ELSE, TOO, AS MY MAGICKS BROUGHT ME CLOSER, EVER CLOSER TO THE EGYPTIAN CITY I SOUGHT:

"AN AURA OF INCREDIBLE, AGELESS EVIL."



"BUT I WAS STILL NEW TO THE WAYS OF SORCERY...

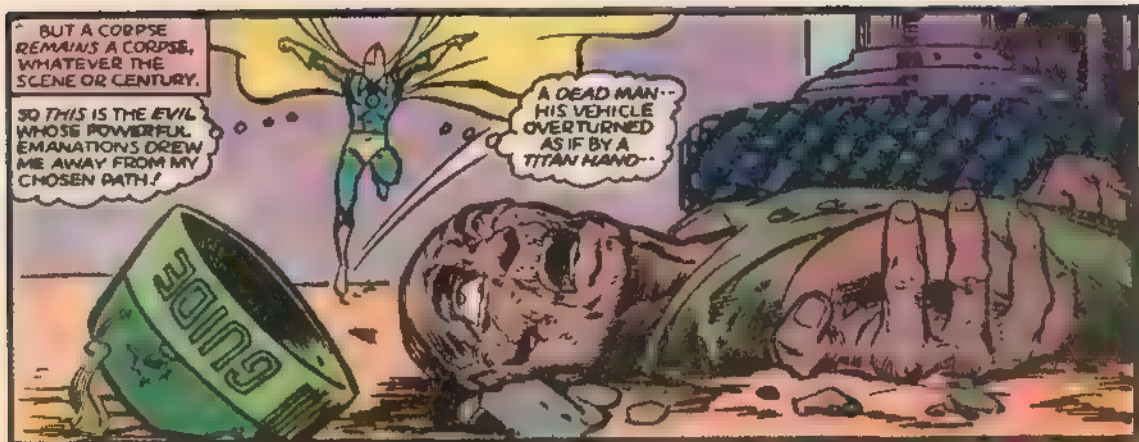
"...AND TOO FOOLISH, TOO INEXPERIENCED AS I VEERED OFF, TO APPROACH THAT EVIL WITH NORMAL HUMAN CAUTION.



"I DID REALIZE, THOUGH, THAT IT HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH AN OBJECT I ABRUPTLY SPIED IN THE SAND...

"...AN AUTOMOBILE, VIOLENTLY OVER-TURNED UPON ITS SIDE.

"I DON'T REMEMBER IF I NOTICED, RIGHT AWAY, THE ADVANCES MADE BY AUTO-MAKERS DURING MY SOJOURN WITH NABU..."



BUT A CORPSE
REMAINS A CORPSE,
WHATEVER THE
SCENE OR CENTURY.

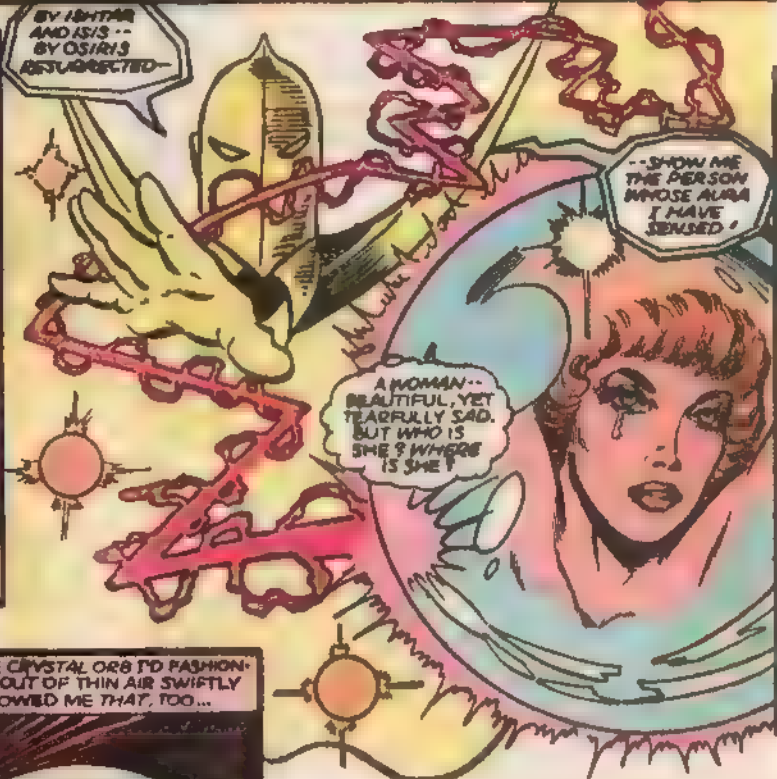
SO THIS IS THE EVIL
WHOSE POWERFUL
EMANATIONS DREW
ME AWAY FROM MY
CHOSEN PATH!

A DEAD MAN--
HIS VEHICLE
OVERTURNED
AS IF BY A
TITAN HAND--



--A MASK OF FEAR
FROZEN UPON HIS
LIFELESS FACE!

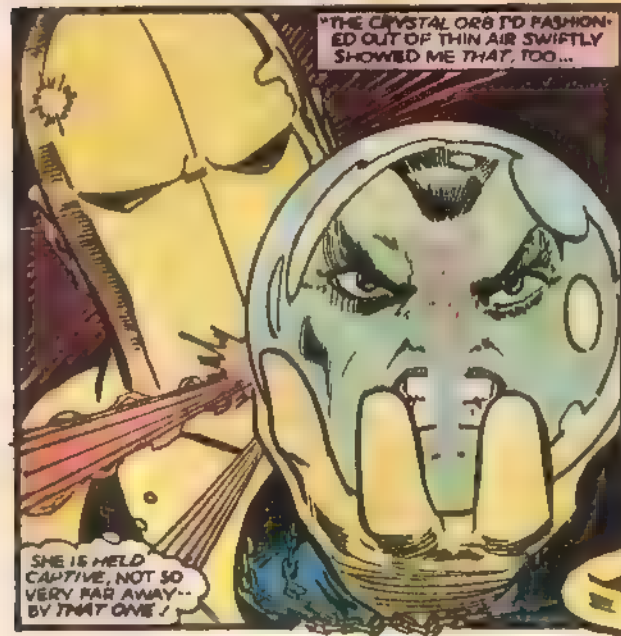
"AND THEN, I SENSED ANOTHER
PRESENCE OF RECENT VINTAGE. SO,
SINCE NABU HAD SHOWN ME HOW
TO TRACE SUCH VESTIGES...



BY ISHTAR
AND ISIS--
BY OSIRIS
REBORN--

--SHOW ME
THE PERSON
WHOSE AURA
I HAVE
SENSED!

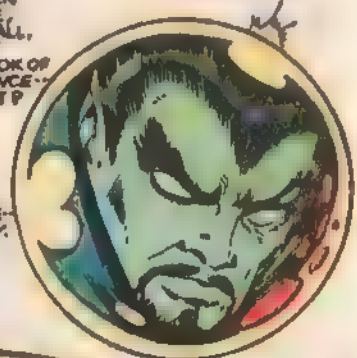
A WOMAN--
BEAUTIFUL, YET
TEARFULLY SAD.
BUT WHO IS
SHE? WHERE
IS SHE?



"THE CRYSTAL ORB I'D FASHION-
ED OUT OF THIN AIR SWIFTLY
SHOWED ME THAT, TOO...

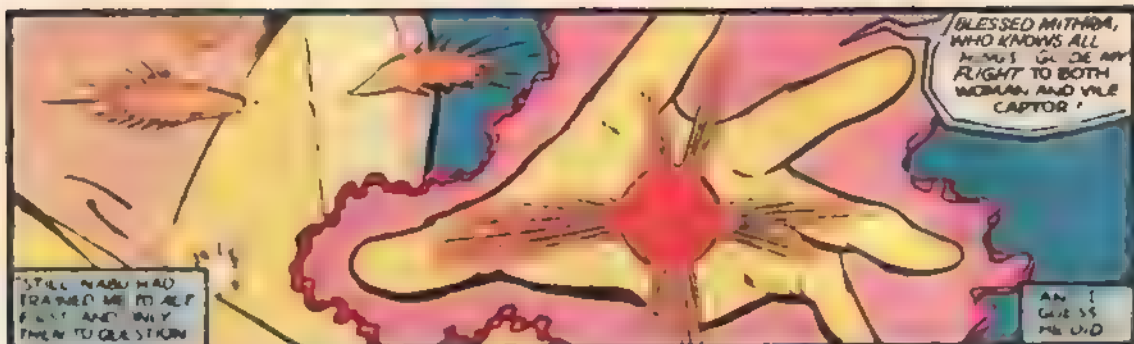
"I KNEW INSTANTLY
I HAD NEVER SEEN
THE MAN BEFORE.
EITHER AFTER ALL,
WHO WOULDN'T
REMEMBER A LOOK OF
PURE MALEVOLENCE--
ON A GREEN FACE?

"AND YET, I HAD
SEEN HIM BEFORE--
IN DIM ANTHOLOGY.



"IT WAS A PARADOX
I WAS NOT YET
PREPARED TO
UNDERSTAND.

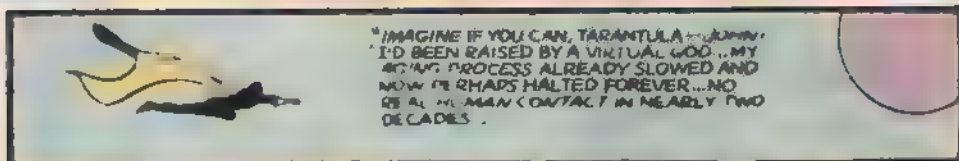
SHE IS HELD
CAPTIVE, NOT SO
VERY FAR AWAY--
BY THAT ONE!



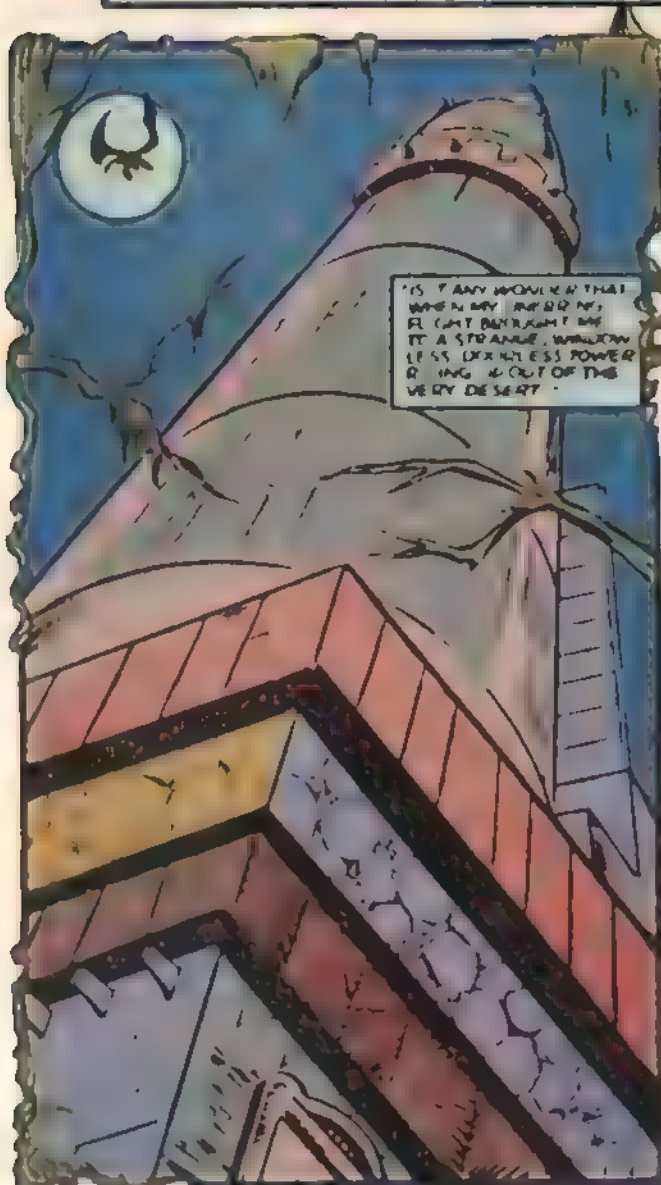
BLESSED MITHRA,
WHO KNOWS ALL
THINGS. CAN HE
FLIGHT TO BOTH
WOMAN AND VILE
CAPTOR?

"STILL NABU HAD
TRAINED ME TO REF
LECT AND ONLY
THEN TO QUESTION

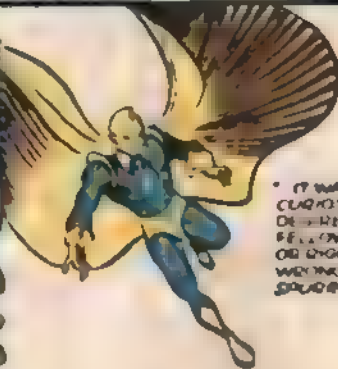
AM I
GUESS
HE'D



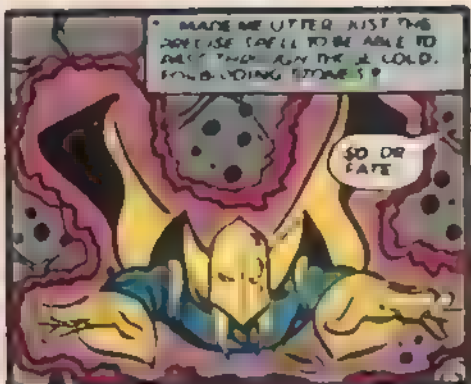
"IMAGINE IF YOU CAN, TARANTULA...JOHN...
I'D BEEN RAISED BY A VIRTUAL GOD...MY
ACTING PROCESS ALREADY SLOWED AND
NOW PERHAPS HALTED FOREVER...NO
REAL HUMAN CONTACT IN NEARLY TWO
DECADES.



"IS THERE ANY WOMAN THAT
WHEN MY INSIDE MY
FLIGHT BUT I AM NOT
IT A STRANGE, UNKNOWN
LESS, UNLESS POWER
RING IN OUT OF THE
VERY DESERT.

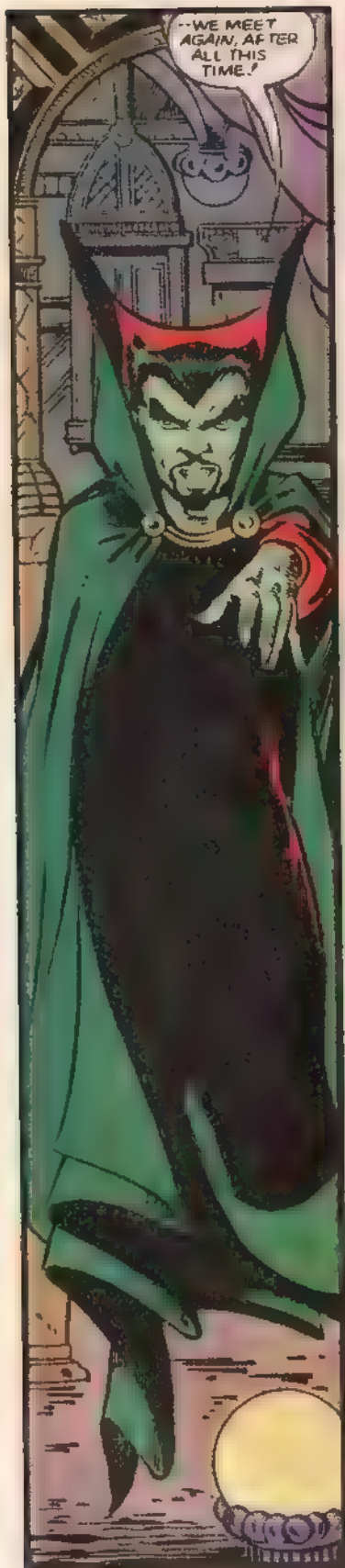


"IT WAS INTELLECTUAL
CURIOSITY MORE THAN
DESIRE TO BE LIKE A
FEW HUMAN BEINGS
OR GIVE ANY POSSIBLE
WEAKNESS, WHICH
SOURCED ME ON--

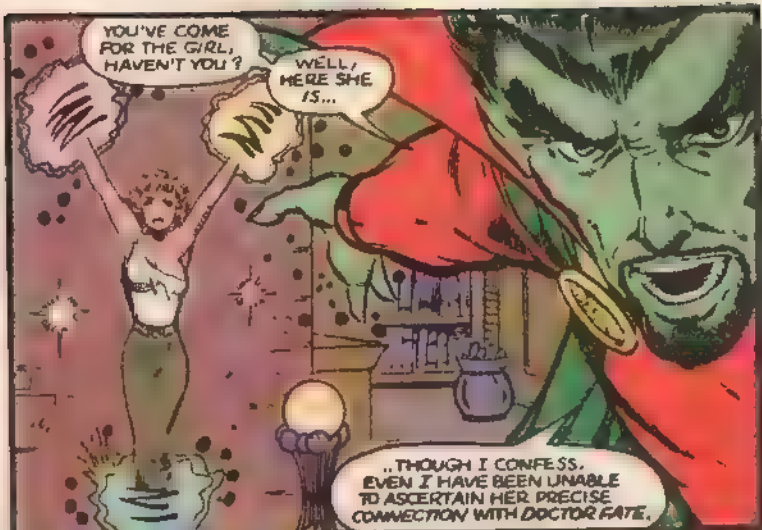


"MADE ME UFFER JUST THE
WORLD TO BE ABLE TO
FIGHT THEM IN THE WILD.
FIGHTING THEM IS

SO OR
FATE



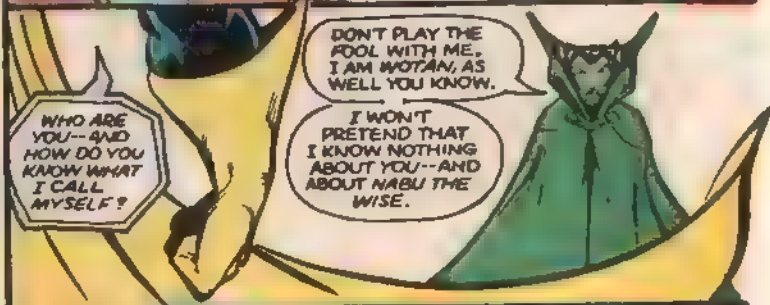
--WE MEET AGAIN, AFTER ALL THIS TIME!



YOU'VE COME FOR THE GIRL, HAVEN'T YOU?

WELL, HERE SHE IS...

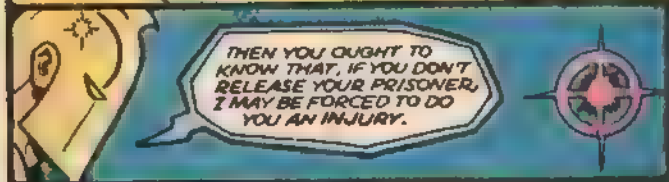
..THOUGH I CONFESS, EVEN I HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO ASCERTAIN HER PRECISE CONNECTION WITH DOCTOR FATE.



WHO ARE YOU--AND HOW DO YOU KNOW WHAT I CALL MYSELF?

DON'T PLAY THE FOOL WITH ME, I AM WOTAN, AS WELL YOU KNOW.

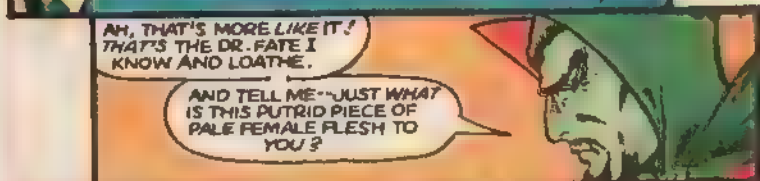
I WON'T PRETEND THAT I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT YOU--AND ABOUT NABU THE WISE.



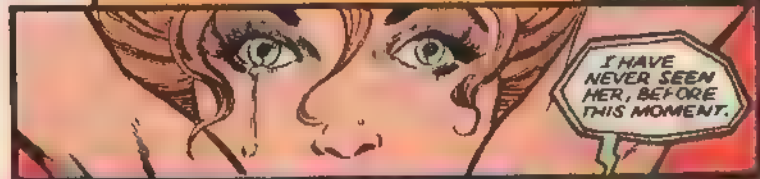
THEN YOU OUGHT TO KNOW THAT, IF YOU DON'T RELEASE YOUR PRISONER, I MAY BE FORCED TO DO YOU AN INJURY.

AM, THAT'S MORE LIKE IT! THAT'S THE DR. FATE I KNOW AND LOATHE.

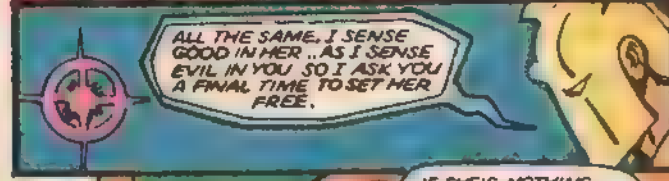
AND TELL ME--JUST WHAT IS THIS PUTRID PIECE OF PALE FEMALE FLESH TO YOU?



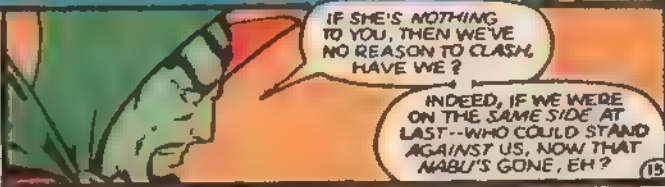
I HAVE NEVER SEEN HER, BEFORE THIS MOMENT.



ALL THE SAME, I SENSE GOOD IN HER..AS I SENSE EVIL IN YOU SO I ASK YOU A FINAL TIME TO SET HER FREE.



IF SHE'S NOTHING TO YOU, THEN WE'VE NO REASON TO CLASH, HAVE WE?



INDEED, IF WE WERE ON THE SAME SIDE AT LAST--WHO COULD STAND AGAINST US, NOW THAT NABU'S GONE, EH?



SO, WHAT
SAY YOU,
FATE?

NEVER. I CARE
LITTLE FOR WOMEN
I DO NOT KNOW--OR
WORLDS I BARELY
RECALL--

BUT MAMU DID NOT
TRAIN ME THAT I
MIGHT YOKE MYSELF
IN HARNESS WITH ONE
SO OBVIOUSLY STEEPED
IN DEVLTRY!

I PERCEIVED
THAT MIGHT
BE YOUR
ANSWER--

ARE WE
FRIENDS--
ALLIES?

I SUPPOSE THE ENTITY
I NOW KNOW TO BE DR.
FATE COULD HAVE BEEN
PREPARED TO MEET
WOTAN'S SORCEROUS
BLAST.

UNNN--!

"BUT THE MORTAL
MAN NAMED
KENT NELSON
WAS NOT...

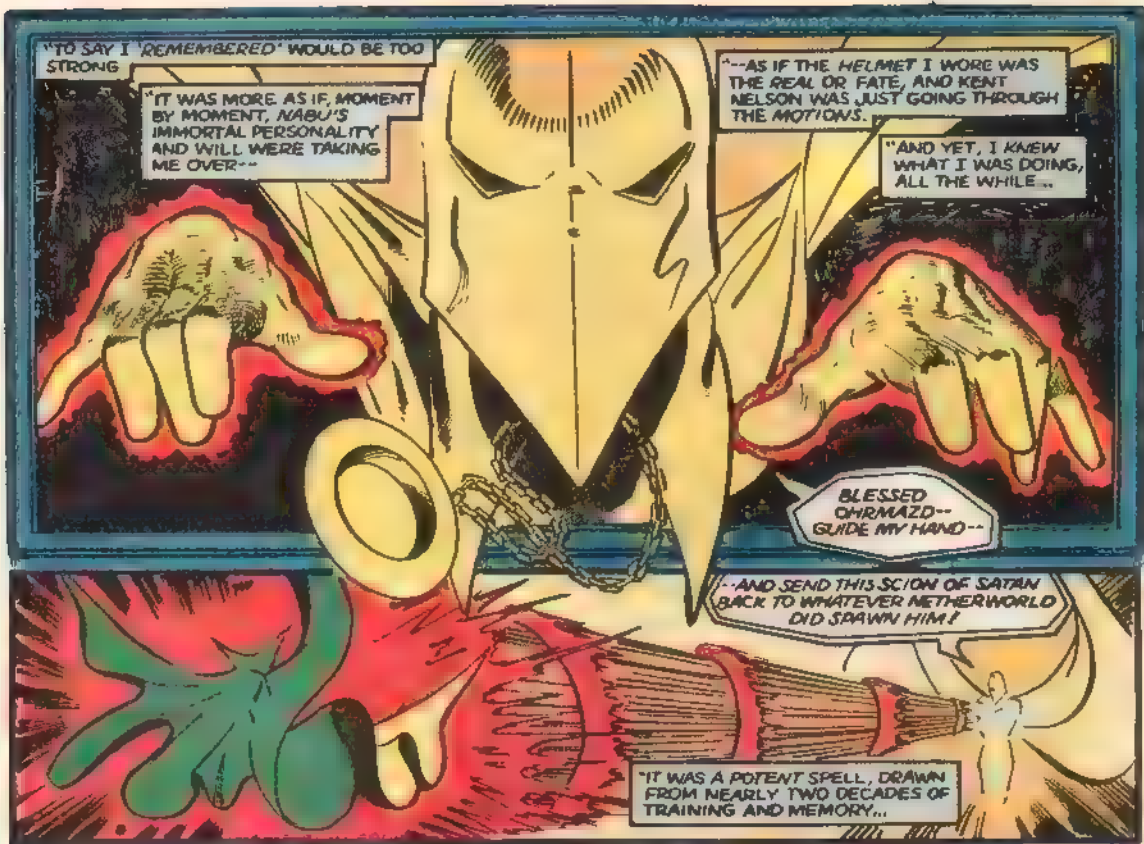
...AND ONLY THE TATTERED
REMNANTS OF MY MYSTIC
SPELL, WHICH CLUNG TO ME,
SAVED ME FROM BEING
CRUSHED WHEN I STRUCK
UNMELTING STONE.

--THE LAST
ANSWER YOU
WILL EVER
GIVE--TO
ANYONE!

THROOM!

"AS IT WAS, I WENT THROUGH,
AND THEN SOME."





"TO SAY I 'REMEMBERED' WOULD BE TOO STRONG

"IT WAS MORE, AS IF, MOMENT BY MOMENT, NABU'S IMMORTAL PERSONALITY AND WILL WERE TAKING ME OVER--"

"--AS IF THE HELMET I WORE WAS THE REAL OR FATE, AND KENT NELSON WAS JUST GOING THROUGH THE MOTIONS.

"AND YET, I KNEW WHAT I WAS DOING, ALL THE WHILE--"

BLESSED OHIRMAZD--
GUIDE MY HAND--

"--AND SEND THIS SCION OF SATAN BACK TO WHATEVER NETHERWORLD DID SPAWN HIM!

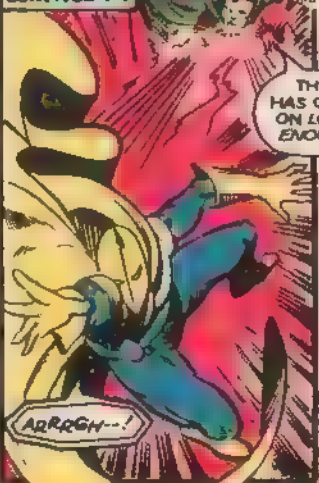
"IT WAS A POTENT SPELL, DRAWN FROM NEARLY TWO DECADES OF TRAINING AND MEMORY--"

"STILL, IT HAD THE RAW, UNTRIED WILL POWER OF KENT NELSON BEHIND IT--"



"--NOT THE FORCE OF NABU, STEEPED IN HALF A MILLION YEARS OF USAGE--"

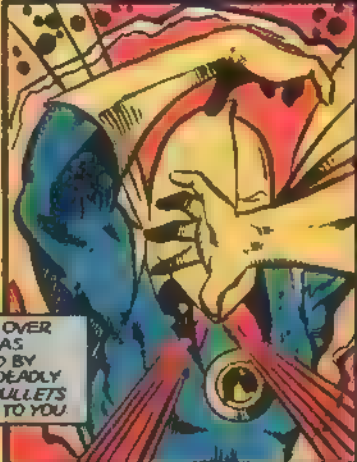
"--SO WOTAN SURVIVED IT."



THIS HAS GONE ON LONG ENOUGH!

ARRGH--!

"OVER AND OVER AGAIN I WAS BLUFFETED BY MAGIC AS DEADLY TO ME AS BULLETS WOULD BE TO YOU.



"...AND THEY TOOK THEIR TOLL.



AND NOBODY IN THE WORLD KNEW--LET ALONE CALLED--EXCEPT AGA CARRER.

WOTAN, OR WHOEVER YOU ARE--DON'T KILL HIM-- PLEASE 'HE WAS JUST TRYING TO HELP ME!'

YOU'VE ALREADY GOT ME--SO LET HIM GO!

SILENCE, WOMAN! AT LAST, MY POWERS HAVE GIVEN ME THE MEASURE OF MY OPPONENT.

THIS BOTH IS, AND IS NOT, THE SAME. DE FATE BATTLED IN MY OWN REVEREND INCARNATION--

"BUT I SHALL USE WHAT I HAVE LEARNED TO DESTROY FATE, IN THIS AGE AND IN ALL!

"NEXT MOMENT IT WAS AS IF A SODOROUS TENTACLE HAD REACHED INTO MY HUMAN SENSE--FOUNDED THE MEMORY OF MY FATHER'S DEATH THERE--AND THEN BOMBARDED ME WITH THAT MEMORY IN A SACKISTIC WAY (E WHICH AGA HAD NEVER BEEN CAPABLE

I WAS READY BY THEN FOR ANY OTHER FORM OF ATTACK--BUT NOT FOR THAT--

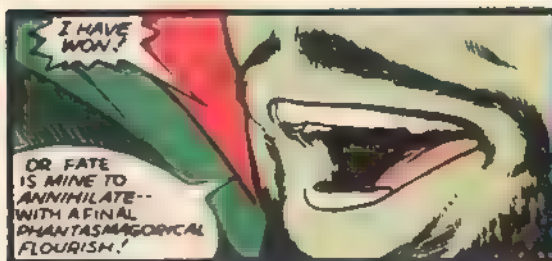
--AND SO I FELL.

FWAAK!

"NOT COULD THE PRELUDE OF AGA, FOR ALL ITS VALENT POWER--

--MAKE ME RISE AGAIN



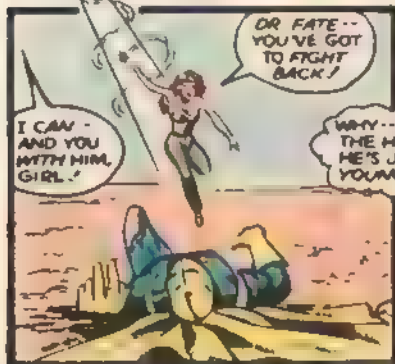


I HAVE WON!

OR FATE IS MINE TO ANNIHILATE-- WITH A FINAL PHANTASMAGORICAL FLOURISH!



NO! YOU CAN'T--!



I CAN-- AND YOU WITH HIM, GIRL!

OR FATE-- YOU'VE GOT TO FIGHT BACK!

WHY-- BENEATH THE HELMET, HE'S JUST A YOUNG MAN!



UNNNNNH...

NO USE! NOTHING I SAY-- NOTHING I DO-- SEEMS TO GET THROUGH THE SHELL OF PAIN ENCASING HIM.

HE CAME ON LIKE A ZILLION-YEAR-OLD WIZARD WITH MAGICAL MIGHT TO SPARE-- BUT HE'S REALLY LITTLE MORE THAN A BOY, AFTER ALL.



EVEN HIS VOICE HIS MOAN SOUNDS DIFFERENT, YOUNGER WITH THAT HELMET OFF HIS HEAD.

BUT, WHATEVER HAPPENS TO ME, HE'S GOING TO DIE.



FOOLISH FEMALE! IF HE COULD NOT OPPOSE ME WEARING NABUL'S HELMET-- WHAT CHANCE HAS HE WITHOUT IT?

PREPARE YOU BOTH TO MEET YOUR CREATOR, IF ONE THERE BE-- WHEN WOTAN WORKS HIS ULTIMATE SPELL!



IT'S-- SO VERY SAD--

AND THEN



INZA CRAMER



WOTAN

60

"IT WAS A TEAR FULL
OF COMPASSION...
COMPASSION FOR ALL
MANKIND..."

"...BUT MOST
ESPECIALLY FOR
THE UNNAMED
YET VERY HUMAN
PERSON SHE
CRADLED IN HER
SLENDER ARMS..."

"...AND IT WORKED A MIRACLE.

"FIRST KENT NELSON'S EYES
BURNED BRIGHTLY AGAIN..."



"YOU SHOULD HAVE SLAIN
ME MORE QUICKLY, WOTAN--
WHILE YOU HAD THE CHANCE."

"NOW-- THAT
MOMENT HAS
FOREVER
PASSED!"

"IT WAS DG.
FATE'S
VOICE AGAIN--"

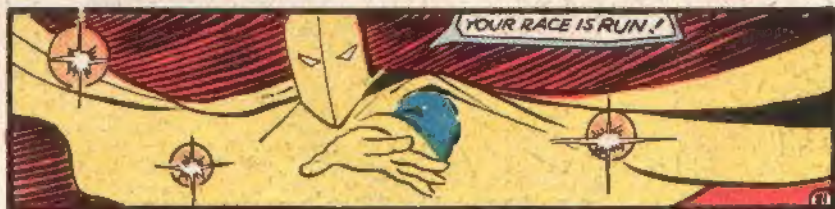
"...AND THEN!"

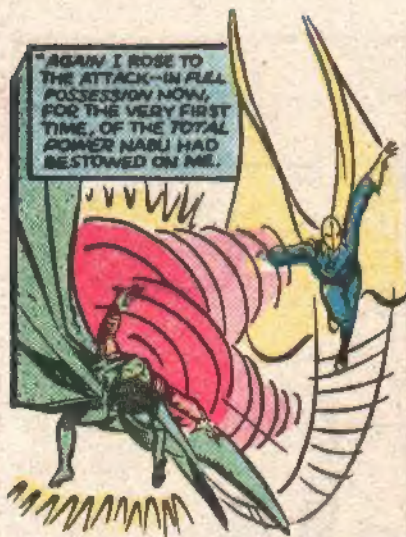


"--AND EVEN
INZA CRAMER
NOTICED THE
DIFFERENCE."

"DID YOU HEAR ME,
SPAWN OF SHEOL?"

"YOUR RACE IS RUN!"





"AGAIN I ROSE TO THE ATTACK--IN FULL POSSESSION NOW, FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME, OF THE TOTAL POWER NABU HAD BESTOWED ON ME."



"WOTAN NEVER HAD A PRAYER."



"I DISINTEGRATED HIM--SENT HIS VERY ATOMS CAREENING TO THE FARTHEST CORNER OF A FAR-FLUNG COSMOS--"



"--AND KNEW, IN THAT INSTANT, THE FULL RANGE OF JORGEROUS MIGHT WHICH LAY AT MY DISPOSAL."

"I DECIDED THE FIRST PLACE TO TEST THAT MIGHT WAS UPON THE MAGICAL TOWER WHICH WOTAN HAD ERECTED UPON THE BURNING DESERT..."



"BY AMON-RA AND CHIRMAZD--BY ANU AND ALL THE LORDS OF ORDER--"



"--LET THIS VILE THING VANISH FROM THE FACE OF A BLIGHTED PLANET!"

"AND IF THE KENT NELSON SIDE OF ME FELT ANY SLIGHTEST SURPRISE AT THE POWER DR. FATE HAD UNLEASHED--I DON'T RECALL IT."

"AND THEN I RETURNED
TO INZA CRAMER.

"A MOMENT'S HESITATION. A
SILENT WAR WAGED WITHIN, BY
HIDDEN DEMONS, AND THEN...

I THANK YOU
FOR WHAT YOU
UNWITTINGLY
DID--BUT STILL I
SHOULD WIPE
FROM YOUR MIND
ALL MEMORY OF
WHAT OCCURRED
HERE TODAY.

PLEASE--DON'T!
I'VE ONLY GOT
THE SLIGHTEST
INKLING OF WHAT
DID HAPPEN--

--BUT I THINK
YOU NEED MY
HUMANITY--OR AT
LEAST SOMEBODY'S--
JUST AS MUCH AS
THE WORLD NEEDS
A DR. FATE.

PERHAPS YOU ARE
RIGHT, IN FACT, IT MAY
WELL BE THAT, IN THE
GREATER SCHEME OF
THINGS, I NEED THAT
HUMANITY EVEN MORE
THAN IT NEEDS ME.

PERHAPS YOU ARE THE
SECRET OF WHICH NABU
SPOKE--THE SINGLE SECRET
WORTH HAVING FOR A
LIFETIME UNENDING!

WHAT YOU'RE
SAYING IS--YOU
COULD USE A
FRIEND.

I'LL TRY TO BE
THAT FRIEND...
IF YOU WANT
ME TO.

"I ANSWERED HER
THE ONLY WAY I
KNEW: BY TAKING
HER IN MY ARMS
AS I FLEW AWAY.

"YOU KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENED SINCE:

"INZA AND I FELL IN LOVE--AND NOT
LONG AGO, FINDING IT WAS TAKING
ME OVER MORE AND MORE, I DONNED
THE REAL HELMET OF NABU FOR
WHAT MAY WELL HAVE BEEN THE
FINAL TIME.

"I RETAIN SOME DEGREE OF
INVULNERABILITY...I CAN STILL
LEVITATE, AND I'M STRONG AS
ANYBODY THIS SIDE OF SUPERMAN...
BUT EXCEPT FOR A FEW ITEMS IN
MY SALEM TOWER, I NO LONGER
HAVE ANY MAGICAL PROWESS.

"SO AM I STILL DR. FATE?
YOU DECIDE."

